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Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 11

November 1996

200,000 Visit Custer NF's Nature Center

by Sherry L. Milburn, Public Affairs Officer,
Custer National Forest, SO, Billings, Montana



Despite near record-setting temperatures in August, more than 200,000 people attended the Montana Fair in Billings, MT, in early August and at least 90% of the people visited the Nature Center, a second year cooperative involving MetraPark and the Custer National Forest.

The Center covered nearly 16,000 square feet. It was constructed before fair time last year in one of the historic barns at MetraPark. Landscaped by bobcat, shovels and rakes, the interior of the barn contained mountains and grasslands and included two ponds, a waterfall, and a winding forest stream.

This summer the Center's "bare earth" was again transformed into a "living" forest and grassland. It was complete with trees, shrubs, grasses, and other native plants from Custer NF habitats. A sanded path wandered through islands of forest and prairie, emulating the natural habitats of animal species of Montana and the Dakotas. A moose and her calf came for water near the live stream. A wolf pack greeted visitors in the darkened denning area. A bison startled at a coiled rattlesnake. A bobcat caught a wild turkey's wing tip. Many other animals and birds roamed the islands. Mounted fish 'swam' in one of the Center's ponds.

Local taxidermists provided approximately 70 full-body animal mounts. Beartooth Ranger District employees supplied more than 400 trees, that had been removed for safety reasons from a road right-of-way. MetraPark provided a semi-truck and crew to move the trees from Red Lodge

to Billings.

Custer NF employees and volunteers rolled up their sleeves and donned gloves as they joined MetraPark employees for more than a week in planting the trees, shrubs and grasses; constructing a wolf den; placing the animal mounts and logs; and covered the island floors with vegetal litter.

When the MetraPark doors opened at noon on Saturday (August 10), — and for the next eight days — Forest Service, MetraPark, and Bureau of Land Management employees and volunteers greeted the visitors who came to share the Nature Center experience. Many came back two and three times with friends and family. Visitors commented that they enjoyed the exhibit so much in 1995 that they had looked forward to seeing the Center again. Some said they were anxious to see what had been changed and added.

The Region One Mule Pack Train, from the Ninemile Ranger Station, joined the Nature Center for part of the fair week. The long-eared mules were a natural draw. They gave mule-handlers Bob Hoverson and Dave York many opportunities to talk with visitors about back country and wilderness travel, mule and horse pack and "Leave No Trace" principles.

Thanks to Forest Service volunteers Gary Grocholski and Steven St. John, Smokey Bear joined the Nature Center staff several afternoons and evenings. The ever-popular bear enjoyed hugs and handshakes from old and young and was invited to "clog" (which he did very well!) with one of the Community Stage entertainment groups. Each night,

A MOUNTAIN LION AT THE NATURE CENTER surveys the crowd while a curious elk and badger greet visitors on the return path from the wolf den.

before the start of nightly show, Smokey did a walk-through to greet the audiences at the MetraPark Arena.

For two summers, the Nature Center has been a highly rewarding experience for everyone involved. Bill Chiesa, MetraPark General Manager, says the Nature Center is a "classic case of partnership between the Forest Service and a local government, creating a significant amount of public awareness of the Forest Service missions and goals."

For Custer NF employees, the Center provided opportunities to communicate with many people in a friendly and relaxed setting over a short, 8-day timeframe. We talked about sensitive issues, provided interpretive experiences, and, most important, established and nurtured relationships with people who express interest and pride in National Forests and Grasslands



ROBERT C. HOVERSON, Ninemile RD, Lolo NF, talks with a family about packing in the National Forests.

Groundbreaking for Construction

Emphasis on Native Species In R-1 Revegetation Program

by Steve Shelly, Botanist,
RO Watershed, Wildlife, Fisheries & Rare Plants

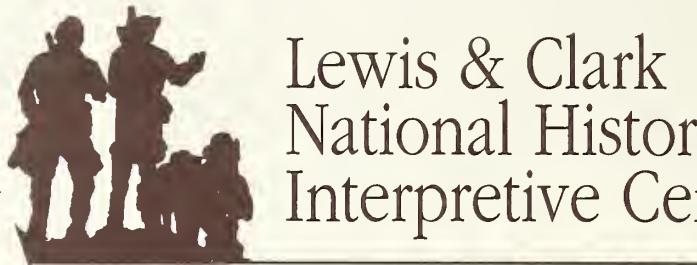
Conservation of native plant biodiversity is becoming more widely appreciated as a critical element in maintaining the long-term health of the world's ecosystems. Exotic plants (plants introduced from foreign sources) have great potential for disrupting native plant communities. These non-native species are often aggressive competitors, and many are causing displacement of native species.

For example, a recent study found 99 exotic plants to be present in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. Twenty-two of the species have high potential for ecological impact, if not controlled.

Of special interest to the Forest Service is the fact that four of the species considered potentially harmful to undisturbed habitats in the Park have frequently been used for revegetation and fire and road rehabilitation on managed landscapes in National Forests: smooth brome; orchard grass; and the white and yellow sweetclovers.

In the Northern Region, emphasis has been shifted to the use of native plant species in revegetation work. This approach is becoming increasingly important as larger areas of the landscape have been influenced — or in some cases even converted — by the presence of non-native plant species.

In the future, the use of native plant materials from local sources will be key to limiting the further effects of exotic species. Federal agencies and other organizations will need to establish common objectives in the use of suitable plants for revegetation work.



JANE SCHMOYER-WEBER (extreme left) Coordinator for the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, Lewis & Clark NF, participated August 16 in the groundbreaking and start of the construction of the Center on the bluff above the Missouri River at Great Falls, Montana. The \$6 million center will be open in 1998 under the administration and management of the Lewis & Clark National Forest. Photo by Dave Brown.

Native Grass Seed Collecting, Growing Ecologically Sound

by Bonnie Dearing, Public Affairs Officer, Lewis & Clark NF, SO, Great Falls, MT

Spending a lazy afternoon just watching the grass grow on the Lewis and Clark National Forest is a great way to pass a summer day. And now, the grasses to be seen are the product of a native grass and forb seed project headed by forest ecologist, Wayne Phillips.

In August of 1994, organized seed collectors harvested four pounds of five species of seeds for a watershed rehabilitation project at North Fork Deadman Creek where siltation was threatening a cutthroat trout spawning stream.

After dividing the collected seed for various tests, some of the seed was broadcast over two test sites. At both test sites, all grass species successfully germinated and were effective in controlling soil erosion. As an added bonus, mountain brome produced abundant seed crops at both sites.

Following this initial success, seed collection accelerated in August, 1995, with three workshops held for trainee seed collectors. All seed collection in 1994 was by cutting off the seed heads. But in 1995,



LEAH MACDONALD, Lewis & Clark NF SO, harvests native grass seeds. Photo by Wayne Phillips

hand seed stripping proved to be more effective, faster, safer and required less seed cleaning. Sixteen pounds of seed were collected by hand stripping from six species of grasses collected from 10 sites.

Seeds collected in 1995 were sent to the Forest Service's Bend (Oregon) Tree Nursery for cleaning, and then were forwarded to the Forest Service's J.H. Stone Nursery, Central Point, Oregon. From this 16 pounds, the nursery harvested a whopping 973 pounds of native grass seeds. This seed crop could meet the Lewis & Clark NF's grass seed needs for the next five years, at a cost of less than \$9 a pound.

"This demonstrates that native seed collection and growing is not only the ecologically responsible thing to do, it is also practical," Phillips said.

DEBRA GALE Region's Interpreter Of Year

left: DEBRA GALE with her mule "Razzle Dazzle".

Photo by Gil Gale.



Regional Forester Hal Salwasser has announced that Debra Gale, recreation forester, Wisdom RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, has been selected as the Northern Region Interpreter of the Year for 1996.

She will represent the Northern Region in the national competition for the Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation Award.

Salwasser said Debra "has a knack for developing high quality interpretive programs and facilities for Forest visitors."

"She has demonstrated a wide range of talents in delivering interpretive programs; writing and creating exhibits and wayside exhibits; working with local people to flesh-out oral histories; and developing interpretative plans. She has provided the Wisdom District with leadership in interpretation for both cultural and natural resources."

Recent work by Debra includes completion of the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway Interpretive Plan; supervising the design and installation of the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway interpretive signs; conducting a series of oral history interviews with local "pioneer" families to gather information for interpretation; working closely with Big Hole National Battlefield staff to produce several interpretive signs and an interpretive auto tour brochure dealing with the Nez Perce National Historic Trail; and completing wayside watchable wildlife exhibits.

OTHER R-1 INTERPRETER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES INCLUDED:

CORT SIMS, archeologist, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, for his enthusiastic and sustained efforts in

educating visitors about the value and importance of heritage resources and for his current efforts on interpretation of the Route of the Hiawatha; a fire exhibit at the Museum of North Idaho; "Fire on the Mountain" traveling display; and his continuing role in projects such as the Marble Creek Historic Areas and Priest Lake Museum.

RANDY BORNIGER, wilderness specialist, Moose Creek RD, Nez Perce NF, for his leadership in wilderness education. The Moose Creek Wilderness Education Program includes many activities that promote low-impact stock and camping techniques which correct behavior responsible for unacceptable social and resource impacts. He has worked closely with the Back Country Horsemen and an army of volunteers to take the message to a wide audience.



R-1 Enterprise Teams To Market Services: WO Preparing Guide

Approximately 21 employees in the Northern Region headquarters are developing preliminary plans to organize into three enterprise teams to market their products and services throughout the Region, in other Regions and to other Federal agencies.

Plans are to initiate the enterprise marketing concept early in 1997.

The 21 R-1 employees are in three enterprise teams: Geometrics (Engineering), Historic Preservation (Engineering) and Communications (Public & Governmental Affairs). A number of other employees on R-1 National Forests have been assigned to enterprise operations but they have not yet organized into enterprise teams.

Forest Service Reinvention Leader Dave Radloff, WO, heads an ad hoc team preparing Forest Service enterprise guidelines and business plan for use by enterprise teams, Servicewide.

Radloff recently explained to the Forest Service's National Leadership Team that the guide/ business plan will provide direction for prototype enterprise design, establishment and operations. The guide will identify the requirements and possible difficulties that might be expected in the establishment, administration and management of the enterprise operation.

Fifteen Forest Service employees are serving with Radloff. They represent a broad, cross-section of employees from a variety of disciplines, levels and

geographical areas, including WO, ROs, Districts and National Forests.

Radloff reported there is great interest in enterprise operation throughout the Forest Service. The ad hoc team has determined that guidelines are needed to aid the developing enterprise operations. The guide/ business plan will cover definitions, team sponsorship, sample business plans, reading lists, communication plan designs and a variety of other enterprise topics.

Radloff said the ad hoc group is addressing unanswered questions involving personnel, finance, accounting, metric issues and administration. The guideline/business plan is scheduled for distribution in the first quarter of 1997.

Willard Creek Trail

Partnerships, Volunteers Critical Ingredients In Environmental Education



A BELOW-FREEZING SNOW COVER in May didn't deter X-CEL students from Helena High School from heading into the Elkhorn Mountains to spend a day reconstructing the Willard Creek Trail and building a bridge.

Partnerships are making a difference on the Helena National Forest. They're often the key ingredient in a successful project.

Over the years, volunteers have maintained and reconstructed a significant number of Forest trails. Today these efforts are going a step further by combining volunteer trail maintenance with the development of environmental education and interpretive programs.

The Willard Creek trail, in the Elkhorn Mountains in an area that burned in 1988 just south of Helena, became a common focus for a four-way partnership in 1995. It provides excellent opportunities for the study of fire ecology, habitats and for viewing wildlife.

A partnership involving The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena High School, the Prickly Pear Sportsman's Association and the Helena Ranger District joined resources and skills in the reconstruction of 1.5 miles of the Willard Creek Trail and designing interpretive messages and an education program for the trail.

by Amy Teegarden,
Helena
National
Forest



HELENA HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS and partners were instrumental in development of the Willard Creek Interpretive Nature Trail in the Elkhorn Mountains. Left to right: Gerry McCarthy, Rod Boyer, Lee Holmes, Becky Stuker, Mike Vashro (Prickly Pear Sportsman's Association), and Rob Holter. Photos by Amy Teegarden

Students and teachers in the Helena High School X-CEL program were the catalyst for this partnership. X-CEL (an acronym for Cross-Curricular Experiences in Learning) involves students from various disciplines — ranging from art, carpentry and drafting to drama, physics, marketing, and welding — who volunteer their skills for community projects. The students were involved in all aspects in the development of the Willard Creek project. In addition to their work in the planning phase, the class provided labor for the reconstruction and, after that, designed and developed educational and interpretive messages focusing on fire ecology.

Before they performed physical work on the trail reconstruction, the students spent approximately six months preparing for the work day. They surveyed the area of the old trail. Determined where they wanted to locate the interpretive stations, and determined if there was need to re-route part of the trail.

"We found a lone apple tree out there that we decided to include in the interpretive brochure," explained Chase Coburn, a high school science student. He speculated that the apple tree could have been seeded along the trail route when a miner or logger threw an apple core on the ground as he walked the trail.

The high school students took core samples from the apple tree, botanical samples and made plaster casts of animals'

tracks in the area. "We saw moose and elk out here," Coburn reported. "There are old beaver dams. But we're not sure there are any beaver there now."

X-CEL students and teachers organized an "educational trunk" of activities that can be conducted along the trail or in classrooms. The core samples and other materials are part of the education trunks for elementary and secondary school classes. X-CEL students created a 3-D topographical map of the trail and a CD-ROM for the education trunks.

A new browse enclosure near the trail will be used in studying ungulate browse. The students have finalized an interpretive brochure this fall. It will be available to the public, students and teachers. It marked the completion of the design and construction of a trailhead.

The Willard Creek Interpretive Trail is now meeting some of the increasing need for educational opportunities in forest settings. The interpretive trail was the site for a number of hiking groups during the summer. It was utilized by the general public and more than 80 teachers attended an on-site workshop to learn more about the trail, the educational material and plan for student field trips.

Funding for the project was provided by members of the partnership, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Montana State Parks and Wildlife Interpretive Associa-

Continued on next page

tion. X-CEL students will continue to provide annual maintenance on the trail. They are now raising funds to support continued development and replacement of education supplies and materials.

Without partnership support, energy and cooperation, it is unlikely the Willard Creek Interpretive Trail would have been developed. The public and students in the Helena area now have a new nature education trail for exploration and learning. Students, community and organization members made it happen!



DAVE TURNER, district ranger, Helena RD, speaks to a group of Helena-area teachers about his role as a paraprofessional archeologist and fire ecologist in the planning and management of the Willard Creek Interpretive Trail.



YARD WORK, NINEMILE RS, LOLO NF, (l to r) Keith Friedland, Montana Conservation Corps; Johnny Sixkiller, district trail crew; Roger Christopher, resources; Bill West, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center.

"That spider is so huge we need a pack-mule to get it out of here" one seasonal employee shrieked as she attempted to clean another barn window that had a collection of spiderwebs several years old.

Those and other unique comments were heard during the Ninemile RD's All District Work Day this past summer.

The All District Work Day concept was designed to bring all the District and Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center permanent and seasonal workforce together during mid-season. The idea was for everyone to get to know each other since many District crews are isolated from other employees due to location of work and schedules. The other purpose was to complete several facility projects that had languished due to lack of time.

Employees were mixed into groups. The mixing placed certain people, who normally work together, with those they don't often work with. Each group was rotated between projects and education stops during the day. After spending a morning of working, everyone gathered for a potluck.

Work projects included trimming roadside and compound vegetation to improve safety visibility, painting, and cleaning. The education stops included fire shelter deployment, noxious weed identification and ecology, and minimum impact camping gear selection. "It was a real morale booster, especially for our seasonal employees" reflected Ken Britton, Resource Forester. Britton organized the

by Greg Munther, District Ranger,
Ninemile Ranger Station, Lolo NF



DISCUSSING LOW-IMPACT CAMPING:
(l to r) Rich Conrad, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center; Heather Britton, Business management; Mandy Williams, fire crew; Angie Concepcion, fires crew; and Katie Carlson, fire crew.
Photos by Ken Britton.

elaborate mixing and rotation matrix. Shiffy Wellborn, Facility Manager, was equally pleased. "A lot of facility needs we just hadn't been able to get to were tackled today."

Cleanup Day

"I Need A Mule To Move A Spider!"

Lolo National Forest Fair Exhibit Features Nez Perce History

by Cheryl A. Vanderburg, Public Affairs Officer,
Lolo NF, Missoula, MT



The Lolo NF, Nez Perce Tribe and the National Park Service - Nez Perce National Historical Park, Spalding, Idaho, produced a cooperative exhibit at the 1996 Western Montana Fair in Missoula.

Theme of the exhibit was "The Nez Perce Trail: The People and the History." The exhibit featured photographs of Nez Perce people and their way of life along the trail.

In addition to photographs, replicas of original pieces of artwork that included cornhusk bags, mocassins and several other items were loaned to the Forest Service for this exhibit. The multi-media class at Rattlesnake Middle School produced a computer touchscreen program, "The Nee-Mee-Poo Trail" (English translation: Nez Perce), for the fair exhibit. Jennifer Giuliani, a former Rattlesnake Middle School student, worked several weeks during the summer making the final edits and changes for the computer touchscreen program.

A special feature of the exhibit was the Young Horseman Program of the Nez Perce Tribe. The Young Horseman Program has developed a new breed of horse, the Nez Perce Horse, by crossing Akhal-Teke stal-

lions and Appaloosa mares. Under the direction of Rudy Shebala, students who participate in this program are learning the value of the horse not only from a cultural aspect but the horse industry. Several months ago students in the program designed posters and donated them for a raffle at the fair exhibit.

Cheryl Vanderburg, of the Lolo NF, coordinated the Forest Service participation in the Western Montana Fair. She said "It was a real pleasure to work on this exhibit with the Nez Perce Tribe and the National Park Service. I went to the Nez Perce Tribe with the idea and the idea became the interesting and popular exhibit that the fair visitors enjoyed."

An estimated 100,000 people attended the 1996 Western Montana Fair.

LORI AND MATTHEW ERICKSON enjoy the Nee-Mee-Poo Trail touchscreen computer at the Forest Service's exhibit at the Western Montana Fair.

Photo by Keith Thurlkill.



SONSELA SHEBALA, KOOSKIA, ID, at the cooperative Western Montana Fair exhibit that featured the Young Horseman Program of the Nez Perce Tribe.

Photo by Rudy Shebala.



Ecosystem Exhibit Ready To Travel

A portable display describing the Bitterroot Ecosystem Management/Research Project made its debut this spring at the Montana Academy of Sciences meeting at the University of Montana in Missoula.

The display illustrates potential benefits from ecosystem-based management, particularly in forests formerly dominated by ponderosa pine.

If you would like to borrow the display or suggest locations for showing it,

contact Jane Kapler Smith, Intermountain Fire Sciences Laboratory, P.O. Box 8089, Missoula, MT 59807 (telephone 406/329-4805; DG address: J.Smith:22L01A).

JANE KAPLER SMITH, Intermountain Fire Sciences Laboratory, Missoula, Human Dimensions chair of Montana Academy of Sciences, checks out the Bitterroot Ecosystem Management/Research Project exhibit at the Montana Academy of Sciences meeting at the University of Montana.



Wild & Scenic Designations: Eight Lolo NF Rivers, Streams

*By Suzanne Artley, Forester, Long Range Planning,
Lolo National Forest SO, Missoula, Montana.*

A Wild and Scenic River study on the Lolo National Forest resulted in a recommendation for designation of segments of eight rivers and streams of the Clark Fork River system.

The study found parts of the Clark Fork River (27.9 miles), Clearwater River (19.9 miles), North Fork of the Blackfoot (63.9 miles), South Fork of Lolo Creek (12.6 miles), Morrell Creek (5.5 miles), Cache Creek (21.8 miles), West Fork of Fish Creek (20.4) and Rattlesnake Creek (37.9 miles) suitable for classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The recommendations represent a total of 209.9 miles recommended for consideration.

Rock Creek is being considered in a landscape analysis by the Lolo and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests together.

The study results were written and released for public comment after the study team hiked all of the eligible streams and tributaries. Data gathered in the field work was analyzed under the "outstandingly remarkable values" criteria that makes a stream suitable for designation.

All the river segments are free flowing, and qualify for different levels of classification depending on the levels of development present along each stream.



MORRELL FALLS, ON MORRELL CREEK, nine miles northeast of Seeley Lake, MT, on the Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest. A section of Morrell Creek (5.8 miles) above and below the falls, has been recommended for "wild" and "scenic" designation under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. Photo by Seeley Lake Ranger District

The recommendation has been presented to the Regional Forester for approval. It then goes to the Chief, the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress. For information regarding the study results, contact Long Range Planning, (406) 329-3776, in the Lolo National Forest Supervisor's Office.



STEVE ARNO, (left) Intermountain Station Fire Laboratory, Missoula, talks with Shawn Tatarla, reporter for THE RAVALLI REPUBLIC, Hamilton, MT, and Stevensville (MT) District Ranger Leslie Weldon as they view the Bitterroot Valley.

Photo by Madelyn Kempf.

This year marked the midpoint of the five-year Bitterroot Ecosystem Management Research Project (BEMRP). A recent BEMRP progress report reflects the cooperative achievements of scientists, managers and the public since the inception of the project in 1993.

Goals of the project are:

"To predict landscape-level influences of vegetation management on multiple resource outputs and values in an altered Rocky Mountain ecosystem, and to demonstrate to the public the feasibility of landscape-level rehabilitation management..." (BEMRP Progress Report).

The project is being conducted at several locations in the Montana portion of the Bitterroot NF. It involves the University of Montana, the Intermountain Research Station and the Bitterroot NF.

Landmark BEMRP accomplishments include increasing information about plants and animals in the ecosystem; new understanding of the social setting of the Bitterroot Valley; and new methods for managing information at various spatial scales and using it to better understand ecosystems.

Scientists and managers have collaborated with local communities in planning for the

Stevensville West Central Area (SWCA). Dave Silvius, zone leader for the SWCA interdisciplinary team on the Stevensville (MT) RD staff, says models developed through the project enable managers to display the effects of proposed management—especially the no-action alternative—in ways that were not previously possible.

Dave Lockman, wildlife/fisheries biologist on the Stevensville RD, points out that managers often assume that increased structural diversity benefits wildlife. Project work has enabled managers to ask researchers to address that long-held assumption.

This spring the Bitterroot Ecosystem Management Project was part of a national review of the Northern Region. Regional Forester Hal Salwasser, during a presentation at the Bear-Fred Burr demonstration site on the Bitterroot NF, said partnerships between managers and scientists are "critically important" to ecosystem management. Deputy Chief Gray Reynolds encouraged researchers to maintain objectivity as they develop guidance for resource managers.

Ecosystem Study

Bitterroot Management Research Halfway Home

*by Jane Kapler Smith, Intermountain Station,
Fire Sciences Laboratory, Missoula, Montana*

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Public Tours Clearwater NF's Proposed Sale

*by Kathy Thompson, Information Assistant,
Clearwater National Forest, Orofino, Idaho*

Thirty-one people toured the proposed Fish Bate timber salvage sale on the North Fork Ranger District of the Clearwater NF in July. The group included lumber mill and environmental group representatives, Forest Service specialists and other individuals interested in the proposed sale.

District Ranger Art Bourassa and his staff fielded questions. Participants wanted to know about insect and disease infestations in the forest, wildfire potential in stands of dead and dying trees, the feasibility of helicopter logging and the possible effects of the harvest on wildlife and fish populations.

Al Harvey and Geral McDonald, research scientists from the Intermountain Research Station laboratory in Moscow, Idaho, were along with the group visiting the project and answering questions.

Five vans took the tour participants on a winding, dusty route along the North Fork of the Clearwater River. The group stopped to view specific sites in the proposed sale

area and a landslide left by last winter's storms.

They also viewed an old helicopter timber sale site, a stand of trees with active insects and disease and an area burned by wildfire several years ago. What they saw was 50% to 75% dead or diseased trees, mostly western white pine. The sale area encompasses 2,257 acres. More than 90% of the 22 million board-foot sale would be helicopter-logged.

Fish Bate had previously been offered as an emergency salvage sale under the provisions of Federal legislation signed into law last year. However, in July, shortly before the scheduled tour of Fish Bate, Department of Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman issued a directive on the emergency salvage law that changed the status of Fish Bate. Because a smaller sale included in the Fish Bate area had been deferred in the past, the proposed current sale moved beyond the scope of the law, according to Glickman's directive.



NORTH FORK DISTRICT RANGER ART BOURASSA points to a stand of insect-infested trees in the proposed Fish Bate salvage timber sale on the ranger district. Thirty-one people, on a tour of the proposed sale area, had an opportunity to see first hand some of the ingredients characteristic of salvage timber sale. Photo by Kathy Thompson

While the classification of Fish Bate as an emergency salvage sale has been delayed, the tour provided the participants an opportunity to see and discuss some of the ingredients that characterize salvage sales. The mix of opinions and philosophies presented opportunities for the participants to exchange ideas and clarify some of the issues associated with the proposed sale.

William Fortune District Ranger For Judith & Musselshell Districts

William Fortune assumed the District Ranger position of the Judith Ranger District, Stanford, MT, Lewis and Clark National Forest, in September. Fortune will manage the district in conjunction with his current duties as the Musselshell District Ranger based in Harlowton, Montana. Fortune will maintain his residence in Harlowton, but will split his work time

between the two districts. A Butte native, Fortune has a degree in range management from Montana State University. Prior to his assignment to Harlowton in 1990, Fortune served as the Sheyenne District Ranger, Lisbon, N.D., on the Custer National Forest.



DISTRICT RANGER WILLIAM FORTUNE (right) with Wayne E. Butts, range conservationist, Musselshell RD, Lewis & Clark NF, look over a proposed land exchange in the Crazy Mountains.

Cynthia A. Tencick New District Ranger Wise River RD



CYNTHIA A. TENCICK

Cynthia A. Tencick has been named District Ranger for the Wise River (MT) RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF. She reported to her new assignment November 12.

A native of Denver, Tencick comes from the Payette NF, McCall, Idaho, where she served on the team revising the Forest plan. She has also worked as temporary district ranger in McCall and has had assignments managing tim-

ber and recreation programs on National Forests in Colorado and Idaho. She began her Forest Service career in 1979 on the Medicine Bow National Forest in Wyoming.

She holds a degree in natural resource management (1980) from the University of Montana and has done graduate work at Colorado State University.

(Tencick is pronounced "TEN-sick.")

Short Notes



VARIETY OF SPECIAL HUNTING AREAS on Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest are open to disabled hunters. Disabled hunters must bring a Montana conservation license stamped "Permit to Hunt from a Motor Vehicle" to the Forest Service ranger station that manages the area the sportsperson wants to hunt. At the ranger station the hunter can get a special permit to allow motorized access behind locked gates.

SHERIDAN (MT) OFFICE MOVES to new address, 402 South Main St., Sheridan, MT 59749. The mailing address (P.O. Box 428) and telephone number (406/842-5432) remain the same.

RETIRING LEWIS & CLARK NF SUPERVISOR HONORED:

George Engler, Great Falls, MT, received a national award from the Bureau of Land Management for his work with people and natural resource issues. The national "Health of the Land Award" was presented to Engler at a ceremony in Great Falls. Engler is a member of BLM's Lewistown Area Resource Advisory Council.

BITTERROOT NF OFFERS \$5,000 REWARD for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the Willow Creek Fires. The Willow Creek fire was arson caused, reported Bitterroot NF Supervisor Steve Kelly. The Upper Willow Creek Fire was also person caused. Both fires started August 11.

SELWAY/MOOSE CREEK RDs COMBINE OFFICES: The Moose Creek RD office, Nez Perce NF was previously located upstairs in the Grangeville, Idaho, Post Office. The new location is at the Fenn Ranger Station, 5 miles up the Selway Road No. 223, south off U.S. highway 12.

CONCESSIONAIRE TO RUN GEORGETOWN LAKE CAMP-GROUNDS: Philipsburg (MT) District Ranger George Bain, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, said the decision will allow him to spend recreation management dollars on trail maintenance, lake clean up and off-road vehicle management. Bids are being solicited from prospective concessionaires for a five-year period, renewable each year. The concessionaire will keep a percentage of the fees charged at the campgrounds and use the money collected for operation and maintenance of the campgrounds and other Georgetown Lake recreation sites.

FOREST PLANS AMENDED FOR ELKHORN MOUNTAINS: Restoring grassland habitats and improving streams in areas grazed by livestock are among the changes in management plans announced in September for the Elkhorn Mountains. After two years of work and consultation with many interests, the Helena and Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Plans bring management in the Elkhorns up to date, according to Tom Clifford, Supervisor of the Helena NF. The 160,000-acre "Elkhorn Wildlife Management Unit" lies in the Helena and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests, between Helena, Townsend and Boulder, MT.

FOREST SERVICE SPECIAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION TEAM worked a week in October restoring the Hangman's Building at historic Virginia City, MT.

1996 ACCESS GUIDE available at the Nez Perce NF SO, Grangeville, Idaho, at no charge. The access guide accompanies the Forest visitor map, which sells for \$4. The visitor map shows recreation areas and the major roads and trails. In addition to the main roads and trails shown on the visitor map, there are many miles of other roads. Travel on some of these roads is restricted to certain times of the year or to certain types of vehicles.

NAME OF CAMPGROUND CHANGED TO HONOR MAN WHO GAVE LAND, south of Hope, Idaho, Sandpoint RD, Idaho Panhandle NFs. For years, many campers questioned if the name of "Samoan" campground had a Polynesian origin. They'll not need to ask that question any more. The name has been changed to "Sam Owen" campground. Sam and Nina Owen donated the land for the campground in 1940. No one knows how or when it became 'Samoan', sometime in the last 56 years.

Electronic Checks For Fed Employees

The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (effective July 16, 1996) requires Federal agencies to convert from paper checks to electronic fund transfers in two phases.

In Phase 1, which began July 26, all recipients of Federal payments who became eligible to receive those payments on or after July 26 must receive their checks electronically unless the recipient requests a local waiver, certifying that they don't have an account at a financial institution. Phase II will begin January 1, 1999. It involves converting checks to Electronic Funds Transfer for all Federal payments. A waiver will only be granted by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Employees not using Electronic Funds Transfer at that time (January 1, 1999) will be encouraged to make the switch.

New employees will be counseled on setting up Direct Deposit accounts for their earnings as the Forest Service heads toward an all-electronic transfer of funds.

For information about the paperwork required to convert your paycheck to electronic transfer, contact your Human Resources office.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service is a diverse organization committed to equal opportunity in employment and program delivery. USDA prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political affiliation and familial status. Persons believing they have been discriminated against should contact the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice), or 202-720-1127 (TDD).



Kootenai NF Hosts Receive Chief's Volunteers Programs Awards



KOOTENAI NF VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE CHIEF'S AWARD: (left to right) Hayden and Jane Glenn and Jay Fisher. Photo by Nora McCloskey-Bauer.

The Kootenai NF had a proud moment when the Washington office announced winners for the 1995 Chief's Volunteers Program Awards.

One of their volunteer campground hosts, Jay Fisher, received a Chief's Award plaque for volunteer service and national recognition for his outstanding performance as a member of the R-1 Campground Host program. Jay's late wife, Lyn, was honored posthumously.

Jay, currently from Arizona, has been a host for six years at the Dorr Skeels Recreation Area on the Three Rivers Ranger District. Four of those years were spent hosting with Lyn, who passed away early last year. As they had both committed to another season with the Forest Service, Jay returned by himself. With his dedication and extraordinary people skills he helped turn a problem day-use area into a recreation site for all to enjoy.

Runners-up were Alabama hosts Hayden and Jane Glenn who also returned for their sixth year. They previously hosted for four years on

the Libby District at Howard Lake and for the past two years have hosted for the Three Rivers Ranger District at Pete Creek Campground. Being from the South, they exude that famous Southern hospitality to campground visitors. A joy to visit with, Hayden and Jane keep everyone captivated with their warmth and eagerness to provide a pleasant camping experience.

The Kootenai NF is extremely fortunate to have campground hosts of this caliber and are very proud of them and the volunteer tradition of courtesy and helpfulness they have upheld.

Nora McCloskey-Bauer, Forest Service employee and Kootenai NF host coordinator, was also nominated for her work with Forest volunteers. She received a Certificate of Achievement signed by the Chief—her third such document in the past four years.

"When you have great hosts to work with," Nora says, "it just flows together. We're all striving to ensure we meet the needs of the public and provide an unforgettable Kootenai experience."

Servicewide System

Four Merit Awards Recognize Reporting/Accounting Work

Four R-1 and Intermountain Station Forest Service employees received Certificates of Merit and cash awards in August for their contributions to the development of a new, Servicewide reporting and accounting system.

The new All Resources Reporting System (ARRS) Employment and Income Statement system is expected to be implemented in fiscal year 1997.

R-1 Deputy Regional Forester Richard M. (Dick) Bacon presented the Certificates of Merit and cash awards, for Deputy Chief Mark A. Reimers at a meeting of the Northern Region Board of Directors, to

MARTY BOURASSA, team leader, was in charge of the all resource reporting work for the Northern Region. Bourassa is group leader for accounting and computer services in RO financial resources.

FRED STEWART, is the leader of the economics group. Stewart is an economist on the Lolo NF SO staff.

MIKE NICCOLUCCI, economist, Intermountain Station's Forestry Sciences Laboratory, in Missoula.

RICHARD MARSHALL, mineral economist, RO Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage, Wilderness.

Galen Hall, regional budget officer, RO Administration, and Janet Kekich, computer programmer, RO Administration, also work with the ARRS team.

"All Resources Reporting (ARR) is an integrated financial and accomplishment reporting system," Deputy Chief Reimers explained. "It is designed to be a Forest Service tool for communication, analysis and assessment for National Forest System programs.

"It is one of the ongoing efforts of the Forest Service to address improvements to the agency's financial and accomplishment reporting responsibilities."

ARR has been under development since 1988. "Development of the Employment & Income Statement is a major effort within the overall ARR project," Reimers said, "to produce a standardized measure of the socioeconomic outcome of National Forest management."



DEPUTY REGIONAL FORESTER DICK BACON (second from left) presented Certificates of Merit and cash awards to (left to right) **Richard Marshall, Fred Stewart and Mike Niccolucci** for their contribution to the development of a new, Servicewide reporting and accounting system.

Work on the Employment and Income System, underway since 1992 with early prototype design and development, through testing and evaluation has now proceeded through product refinement and completion of user documentation.

"Implementation in 1997 will be a major milestone that would not have been possible without your dedicated efforts...working as an extended team toward completion of this statement."

Personnel Actions

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

GIACOLETTI, MARK, supervisory forestry technician, promotion from Region 4, Salmon-Challis NF
 HOWERY, JACQUELINE, supervisory support specialist, Dillon RD, promotion.
 JOHNSON, GEORGE, forestry technician, SO, promotion NTE 1 year, supervisory forester technician
 LACKLEN, CHARLYN, forestry technician, Jefferson RD, promotion to Region 6, Okanogan NF
 MCKNIGHT, DALE, range conservationist, Wise River RD, temporary promotion to acting district ranger, Wise River RD
 TENCICK, CYNTHIA, acting district ranger, McCall RD, Payette NF, promotion to District Ranger, Wise River RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF
 WINTERGERST, ROBERT, reclamation specialist, Butte RD/SO Annex, quality step increase

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

SHELLEY, KOLLEEN, forestry technician, promotion, SO Reassignments & Transfers
 GATT, ELIZABETH, support services specialist, reassignment, Powell RD from R-2, San Juan/Rio Grande NF
 GOBER, THELMA, program assistant, reassignment, SO from North Fork RD
 GRUBB, ROBERT, forestry technician, reassignment, SO from Nez Perce NF
 HETRICK, NICHOLAS, fish biologist, reassignment, from Powell RD to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska
 MARTIN, DEBRA, fish biologist, reassignment, Pierce RD from R-6, Siskiyou NF
 PIPER, FAYE M., office automation clerk, reassignment, Powell RD from R-2, Pike San Isabel NF.

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

CLARK, REGINA M., rangeland management specialist, SO
 OTT, BARBARA A.F., from White River NF, promotion, to social scientist, SO
Reassignments/Transfers
 BERRY, DOLORES A., purchasing agent, SO, reassignment, to Bitterroot NF, Darby RD, business management assistant
New Employees
 ELLIOTT, MARY E., SCSEP enrollee, SO
Resignations
 HOFMANN, JEAN L., office automation clerk, Ashland RD

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

CASSAINI, STEVE, Forestry Technician, Bozeman RD, promotion
 GOWAN, ROGER, Forester, Bozeman RD, promotion
 HANCOCK, TIM, Supervisory Forester, Bozeman RD, promotion
 HORNBERGER, GARY, forestry technician (smokejumper), Hebgen Lake RD, promotion range technician, Nebraska NF
 METZGER, SHERRY, Computer Assistant, Bozeman RD, promotion, Accounting Technician, SO
 PINCZES, JOHN, Forestry Technician, Bozeman RD, promotion
Reassignments
 ROE, JOAN, personnel clerk, SO, reassignment, Bozeman RD, computer assistant

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

DAVIS, NED, temporary promotion, civil engineering technician, Bonners Ferry RD
Reassignments & Transfers
 DILLARD, DAVID, district ranger Ashton RD, district ranger, Sandpoint RD
 HARTMAN, LEE, reassignment, civilian pay technician, SO
 HODGKINS, JUDY, reassignment, gardener, Eldorado NF, biological science aid, Coeur d'Alene Nursery
 TOWN, LEANN, personnel assistant, reassignment, supervisory personnel assistant, SO

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

JOHNSON, TARA, computer assistant, SO, promotion
 KERN, PATRICIA, cartographic technician, SO, temporary promotion

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

HAYES, BOB, engineering draftsman, SO, promotion
 IPPISCH, CAROL, Support Services Supervisor, Seeley Lake RD, promotion.
 LANGE-NAVARRO, RISA, supervisory forestry technician, Ninemile RD, promotion
 SANDER, CORRINE, Resource Clerk, Superior RD, promotion.
 WILLIAMS, JAMIE, Business Mgmt Clerk, Ninemile RD, promotion.

Reassignments & Transfers

HORSTMAN, MARY, historian, SO, reassignment

REGIONAL OFFICE

Awards & Promotions

ENNIS, JUDITH, budget analyst, RFO, promotion
 FEARS, DALE, accountant, FR, promotion
 PRITCHARD, JOYCE, office auto clk, P&GR, promotion

Reassignments & Transfers

BREWER, KEN, ecologist, EA&P, reassignment from Flathead NF
 STENSRUD, REBECCA, secretary, RFO, reassignment from Lolo NF

Resignations

IRVINE, MARGIE, supv employee relations spec, HR
 SCHUFT, CAROLE, office auto assistant, WWF&RP,



IN MEMORIAM

ROSS CROWLEY, 91, died May 10 at Hospice Family Care Unit, Mesa General Hospital, Mesa, Arizona. Crowley worked for the Kaniksu National Forest at various forestry/fire control positions, including a stint as Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) foreman on the Priest Lake (Idaho) Ranger District, where he mastered the fine art of whittling, which he practiced in his spare moments the rest of his life. He retired from the Forest Service in the mid-1960s as Fire Dispatcher at the Kaniksu NF SO in Sandpoint, Idaho.

MORRIS C. HANKINS, 93, died Sept. 19, in Kerrville, Texas. A native of Texas, he held a law degree from the University of Texas. He worked in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of General Counsel (OGC) in Arkansas and Texas, before he came to Missoula in 1949 where he was attorney-in-charge until his retirement in 1970. Hankins was instrumental in the development of programs for the Farmers Home Administration, Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America for 35 years; was a member of the Methodist Church; held membership in the Masonic Lodge for 75 years; was a member of the board and president of the Government Employees Credit Union in Missoula, 1955-1970.

GEORGE A. LEO, 53, Libby, MT, East Zone Civil Engineering Technician, Kootenai National Forest, died October 9 while flagging a proposed road location for a mining claim near Geiger Lake trail. He started to work for the Forest Service in 1967 in Eureka, California, as an engineering aide. Leo transferred to the Kootenai National Forest in 1977 as a civil engineering technician (transportation planning) at the East Engineering Zone office in Libby, MT. He was born in San Francisco and grew up in Mount Vernon, Washington, and served two years in the U.S. Navy, 1962-1964. Leo was active in the community, particularly in the American Legion baseball program and building and improving parks and ballfields in the Libby area.

WILLIAM RODGERS PIERCE, 81, died October 9 in Gig Harbor, Washington. A native of Kansas, Pierce served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and held a bachelor of science degree in forestry from the University of Washington, a master's of forestry from Yale and a Ph.D. in forestry from the University of Washington. After serving nine years with the Forest Service in Idaho and Montana, Pierce was a professor of forestry at the University of Montana in Missoula until his retirement.

GWENDOLYN RAE WILLIAMS, 47, died in August in Ketchikan, Alaska. She was the wife of James R. Dahl, a local broker, civic leader and businessman. After attending Porterville College, University of Oregon and Lane College, she started her Forest Service career in 1969 in Hot Springs, California. Her career included assignments on the Sequoia NF, Idaho Panhandle NFs, at the Alaska regional headquarters in Juneau, and the Tongass-Ketchikan Area headquarters in Ketchikan, Alaska. While based in Avery, Idaho, she served on the Avery Community Center Committee and was active in the restoration of the historic train station that served at the community center and the Avery library.

Priest Lake Family Writes to Express Appreciation, Thanks

Idaho Panhandle NFs Supervisor David J. Wright received the following letter recently from a Priest Lake family:

Dear Mr. Wright,

Regrettably, and all too frequently, when a taxpayer has a complaint against a governmental agency, the brick bats fly fast and furiously. Yet when the opportunity for accolades presents itself, there is a great deal of procrastination or no comment at all.

Lest I become guilty of "putting off" also, please permit me to commend four Forest Service employees. In my view they have demonstrated themselves as excellent examples and ambassadors of your agency and the Federal service.

My family and I own a little over 40 acres of land in the Priest Lake area. Much of it is surrounded by or adjacent to Forest Service land. I am very anxious to keep our land as fire resistant as practical.

Peggy A. Polichio of your office was exceptionally helpful in analyzing our specific needs and in providing us with excellent advice and guidance. If she hasn't already done so, she should be authoring a book or publishing "helpful hints" on forest fire prevention. My personal thanks to her for her assistance, and to you for having that type of professional caliber on your staff.

In another area, I owe a great debt of gratitude to Christine Cary, Rob Richards, and Kevin "Hoss" (I didn't get his surname) [Lorentzen] for taking time from their leisure to assist me in an emergency situation. I had a pontoon boat on Priest Lake during one of its windier days. The attendant rough waves banged the boat against the dock damaging a pontoon. This caused it to take on water and almost capsized the boat. Christine, Rob, and Kevin came to the rescue. We were able to float the boat and get it ashore. While going through the ordeal, I had the opportunity to talk to them about their education and careers. Believe me, I was quite impressed with their knowledge of hydrology and the effect of environmental impact on Priest Lake and its surroundings. Truly, it is refreshing to observe such good examples of young adults being a part of the Federal Service. Again, my appreciation and best wishes to all the above for their continued success; with my sincere hope that they remain in the Forest Service. Sincerely,

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INTO THE PAST

Did you come up with the What? When? Where? of the picture on the back page of the October issue of the NORTHERN REGION NEWS?

It is French Creek Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp on French Creek in the Nez Perce National Forest. Picture taken in 1925 by K. D. Swan.

Now turn your thoughts to the "Into The Past" historical picture below. Need some help? Picture was taken in September 1910 in Idaho on the St. Joe NF. It shows construction of a new house-ranger station after the August 10 fire in 1910. What Ranger Station? Where?

